

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. OATH/DECLARATION

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the declaration is defective. In the phone conversation held on September 25, 2006, the undersigned explained to the Examiner that the declaration is not defective and is correct. The Examiner indicated that the declaration was acceptable and that Applicants did not have to submit a new declaration. Accordingly, the objection to the declaration should be resolved.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner suggests that the limitation "said center terminal" in claims 1 and 2 be changed to "said at least one center terminal" to maintain consistent claim terminology. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner because it is clear that only one center terminal is being described in the claim without reciting "said at least one center terminal."

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the objection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein to overcome the rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(E) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY KONDO ET AL. (US 5,586,254)

Kondo et al. ("Kondo" hereinafter) discloses a system for managing and operating a network equipment, so as to operate and manage a network in which plural computers and network devices are connected to each other. As noted by the Examiner (see column 39, line 62 through column 40, line 40), Kondo discloses that the network may be formed in a tree topology where, for example, "a star network...in which each of the devices to be managed and

the networks as a node [are] connected to a central computer in a star-shaped configuration.” The Examiner further asserts that “[e]ach additional terminal is provided with a room illumination light for illuminating a room in which the additional terminal is disposed” as described in column 30, lines 19-67 of Kondo.

However, Kondo is fundamentally different from the claimed present invention. According to column 30, lines 19-67, Kondo discloses the management of illumination of a floor. Yet, nothing in Kondo discloses that each of the devices (as described in column 39, line 62 through column 40, line 40) are provided with a room illumination light, nor does Kondo disclose that the central computer (as described in column 39, line 62 through column 40, line 40) is provided with a light turn-on operating means for turning on a room illumination light installed on the devices. The present invention teaches that the “patient terminals are provided with a room illumination light for illuminating a room in which the patient terminals are disposed, and wherein said center terminal is provided with a light turn-on operating means for turning on the room illumination light installed on the patient terminals” (see claim 1). Kondo fails to disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 1 and 2 of the present invention.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-27-06

By: Derrick L. Fields
Derrick L. Fields
Registration No. 50,133

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501